

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 04544 290614Z
ACTION NEA-10

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PORG ILO ELAB TS
SUBJECT: HABIB ACHOUR COMMENTS ON ILC

1. HABIB ACHOUR, TUNISIAN WORKER REPRESENTATIVE DURING ILC AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF GENERAL UNION OF TUNISIAN WORKERS (UGTT), MADE STATEMENT TO PRESS ON HIS RETURN FROM ILC IN GENEVA. HE SAID THAT HE BELIVED IT WAS USEFUL TO CLARIFY CERTAIN ASPECTS OF ILC, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FAILURE OF THE PRESS IN GENEVA TO ENLIGHTEN THE PUBLIC ON POINTS OF DIVERGENCE IN THE CONFERENCE.

2. ACHOUR DEVOTED MOST OF THIS STATEMENT TO CONFERENCE ACTION ON DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT CONCERNING 1974 RESOLUTION ON "DISCRIMINATION, RACISM, AND VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION LIBERTIES PRACTICED BY ISRAELI AUTHORITIES" AND ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS. REGARDING THE SECOND ISSUE, ACHOUR SAID THE COMMISSION REPORT REFERRED TO TERRITORIES "ADMINISTERED" BY ISRAEL AND THAT THIS TERMINOLOGY WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO ARABS SINCE THE TERRITORIES WERE IN FACT "OCCUPIED MILITARILY." ACHOUR ALSO NOTED
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 TUNIS 04544 290614Z

THAT JERUSALEM WAS NOT INCLUDED AMONG THESE TERRITORIES. THUS, HE SAID, THE ARABS DECIDED THAT THEY COULD NOT VOTE ON THIS ISSUE AND CHOSE TO ABSTAIN. WITH THE SUPPORT OF A "LARGE NUMBER OF DELEGATES," THE RESOLUTION DID NOT ATTAIN A QUORUM.

3. ACHOUR DREW THE "BITTER" CONCLUSION FROM THE ILC

THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF WESTERN COUNTRIES, "APART FROM SOME EXCEPTIONS," DO NOT PAY ATTENTION TO THE SENTIMENTS OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AND ESPECIALLY THE ARABS. HE NOTED THAT THIS "INTRANSIGENT" ATTITUDE OF WESTERNERS HAS BECOME DISQUIETING AND CALLS TO MIND THE COLONIAL PERIOD IN TUNISIA WHEN FRENCH TRADE UNIONISTS IN TUNISIA WERE IN FAVOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS BUT REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE IDEA OF SOVEREIGNTY FOR TUNISIA. ACHOUR SAID HE HAS DRAWN CONCLUSION THAT A DESIRE FOR COMINATION REMINISCENT OF THE COLONIAL PERIOD EXISTS AMONG WESTERN DELEGATES.

4. FINALLY, ACHOUR NOTED THAT MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS MOHAMED ENNACEUR, ALONG WITH REST OF TUNISIAN DELEGATION, HAD PLAYED HONORABLE ROLE DURING ILC AND HE HAD SPOKEN OFTEN ON BEHALF OF ARAB AND AFRICAN DELEGATIONS.
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